

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A method ~~for communicating between a subscriber computer and an external device via a gateway device and the internet~~ of providing services to users, the method performed at a network system configured to provide the users with access to the internet, the network system in communication with a billing and content server and with a hotel property management system, the method comprising:

providing ~~the a~~ subscriber computer with access to at least one network via the ~~gateway device network system~~;

adapting, at the ~~gateway device network system~~, to the subscriber computer to facilitate communications between the subscriber computer and the at least one network;

receiving an XML command at the ~~gateway device network system~~ from the ~~external device~~ billing and content server;

determining ~~a type of operation requested by the external device~~;

parsing the XML command to determine a type of operation requested by the billing and content server and to determine a user associated with the XML command;

~~executing the parsed XML command~~; and

communicating with the hotel property management system to authorize and bill an account associated with the user in accordance with data in the XML command;

receiving an authorization result from the hotel property management system; and

transmitting an XML response from the ~~gateway device network system~~ to the ~~external device~~ billing and content server based upon execution of the XML command such that the gateway device supports communications involving the subscriber computer and the external device without requiring the subscriber computer to support XML commands and responses, the XML response comprising a confirmation identifier based on the authorization result.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein communicating with the hotel property management system comprises transmitting a second XML command to the hotel property management system.

20. **(New)** A computing system configured to manage services provided to users, the system comprising:

- one or more communications links configured to communicate with a billing and content server and with a hotel property management system;

- a subscriber interface configured to provide a subscriber computer with access to at least one network and to adapt to the subscriber computer to facilitate communications between the subscriber computer and the at least one network; and

- an XML processing module, executed on at least one processor, and configured to perform a method comprising:

  - receiving an XML command from the billing and content server;

  - parsing the XML command to determine a type of operation requested by the billing and content server and to determine a user associated with the XML command;

  - communicating with the hotel property management system to authorize and bill an account associated with the user in accordance with data in the XML command;

  - receiving an authorization result from the hotel property management system; and

  - transmitting an XML response to the billing and content server, the XML response comprising a confirmation identifier based on the authorization result.

21. **(New)** The computing system of Claim 20, wherein communicating with the hotel property management system comprises transmitting a second XML command to the hotel property management system.

22. **(New)** The computing system of Claim 20, wherein the XML command includes data representing a payment amount and a room number.